

**Meeting Notes**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program North Delta Improvements Group**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2002 at 9:30 am in room 1142**

**Attendance List:**

Aimee Dour-Smith	Jones and Stokes
Bill Darsie	KSN Inc.
Bob Nozuka	DWR, Central District
Chris Kimball	DWR
Collette Zemitis	DWR
Craig Crouch	Sacramento County DWR
Don Trieu	MBK Engineers
Gil Labrie	DCC Engineering
Gilbert Cosio	MBK Engineers
Grant Kreinberg	SAFCA
Gwen Knittweis	CALFED (chair)
Jeff Stuart	NMFS
Joe Miyamoto	EBMUD
Margit Aramburu	Delta Protection Commission
Michael Norris	DWR / SWP Planning
Mike Callahan	San Joaquin County Public Works
Mike Eaton	The Nature Conservancy
Patricia Fernandez	CALFED
Rob Cooke	CALFED
Roger Lee	DWR Reclamation Board
Rosalie del Rosario	NMFS
Sara Martin	Jones & Stokes
Surjit Toor	NRCS
Topper VanLoebenSels	NDWA, DPC
Walter Hoppe	Point Pleasant

**Introductions and Concurrent Project Summaries:**

Aimee Dour-Smith began the meeting with introductions all around, then brought up the North Delta related project summaries. The summaries of concurrent projects in the north delta area had been presented to the group during the December meeting, and the group was asked to provide comments/revisions. However, no comments were sent in. Aimee would like to post these summaries on the web soon, so she offered another chance to make revisions—group members can send revisions to Aimee ([Aimeed@jsanet.com](mailto:Aimeed@jsanet.com)) or Sara Martin ([Smartin@jsanet.com](mailto:Smartin@jsanet.com)) through the end of March.

**All the Players: North Delta Improvements Decision-Making Flow Chart**

Aimee handed out a draft North Delta Decision-Making Flow chart; a visual illustration of all the entities involved with the project. As is apparent from looking at the chart, a federal lead agency has still not been identified. U.s. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch (Corps) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are debating who

should actually take the lead; there are questions of appropriateness on both sides. Of most concern for the Bureau is the fact that they have already funneled monies into the project via CALFED for the EIR/EIS contractor (Jones & Stokes). There is concern that if USBR takes the lead for North Delta, it will set a precedent that the use of USBR money on any Calfed project will pull them into a federal lead position. The federal agencies will decide amongst themselves who should take the lead; the decision is ultimately up to them.

#### **Delta Cross-Channel and Through-Delta Facility Presentation:**

Ron Ott provided the group with a Powerpoint presentation on the research being done on delta fish species (smelt, salmon, splittail, sturgeon, and bass), water quality, and hydrodynamics to support evaluation of the Through-Delta Facility. The goal is to learn enough about delta fish behavior to operate the TDF in a way that will have the least adverse impact on those species and keep them in the Sacramento River. Experiments in the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) are looking at how the fish behave with different flows in that channel, and CALFED is also conducting experiments at the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel gates and the Yolo Bypass to determine if delta species can move over barriers. The study is also investigating the water quality benefits of different DCC operations and TDF.

The data Ron presented were from 2000; the fall 2001 data will not be available to the public until after the Asilomar conference at the end of February. The basic conclusion is that the old idea that fish always follow the flows does not always hold true. Ron said he would come back to the NDIG after Asilomar to do a presentation on the fall 2001 data, and also that the presentation (Powerpoint presentation and video) may be posted on the CALFED website at a later date.

#### **Update on Hydraulic Modeling Effort:**

To kick off the discussion of the hydraulic modeling effort, Don Trieu and Gilbert Cosio handed out a list of questions that are frequently asked about the model (issues and modeling assumptions), and a corresponding list of answers. Another question raised by the NDIG group was:

**Q:** Will the model be able to account for levee failures that occur downstream of our project area?

**A:** If a downstream levee failure affects water surface elevations in the San Joaquin River, the model would be able to account for it.

It was agreed that the next step for the frequently asked question (FAQ) would be to post them on the internet to allow them to be updated as questions arise. An update on the website will be provided by our next meeting.

Gwen Knittweis then announced that MBK's contract has been signed by DWR and SAFCA, and that Sacramento County should sign it within a couple of days, at which point MBK will be able to start working full-force ahead.

**Update on Delta-wide ERP Steering Committee Efforts:**

This scheduled update was to be provided by Michael Coleman of CALFED, but he was unable to attend the meeting. Instead, Aimee outlined the major ERP issue affecting the North Delta project, which is the debate as to whether or not the function of the North Delta project is to actually implement the Calfed Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) or just to implement flood control alternatives that have incidental ecosystem restoration benefits. This decision will also determine whether or not the North Delta project receives implementation funding from the ERP.

**Other Project News:**

Craig Crouch updated the group on the **Sacramento County Point Pleasant** project and handed out a map outlining the core elements and alternative elements, asking the group to keep in mind that the map needs to be updated. The County is just now starting the process of feasibility and environmental analysis. Growth-inducement and loss in flood volume are issues for the project. Craig described some of the new levee alternatives, and also entertained suggestions from the NDIG to perhaps turn the land west of I-5 to a Yolo Bypass-type refuge and have similar agreements with landowners in that area to those agreements in the Yolo Bypass. There were also questions about future Stone Lakes Refuge expansion and how those expansions could affect the project. Another important question that came up was, how would the resulting loss of flood storage in these frequently flooded areas affect flood scenarios in the North Delta project area? The projects are being planned and evaluated concurrently (and with the same hydraulic model) to evaluate the relationship between the 2 projects.

Margit Aramburu also had an update about recreation; the **Delta Recreation Master Plan** has met with delays arising from a lack of funding from the state due to their budget shortfall. They are looking for alternative funding sources.

**Next Meeting:**

The February NDIG meeting is scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, April 4, 2002**, in room 1142 at CALFED offices.

**Action Items:**

Item No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
1	Review and comment on these meeting minutes	All NDIG members	by 04/04/02
2	Review and make corrections to/suggestions for the Related Projects Descriptions (provide recommended text)	All NDIG members	by 3/29/02
3	Post Hydraulic Model Frequently Asked Question on website	Jones & Stokes	By 04/04/02